

COVID-19 LANGUAGE ACCESS ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, with over 25 million people across our nation who have limited English proficiency, there is a critical need for translated COVID-19 outreach materials during this pandemic response.

We must ensure language barriers do not prevent individuals from accessing vital and potentially lifesaving COVID-19 information, especially as our federal, state, and local governments are working to get every single individual in the United States vaccinated.

Madam Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated already existing vulnerabilities, inequalities, and disparities, particularly in access to health care. Inadequate access to health care for reasons such as language barriers increases health disparities among vulnerable populations, especially those of communities of color.

Health disparities are often magnified for individuals who have limited English proficiency. For weeks after the COVID-19 public health emergency was declared, the government provided little to no information about COVID in languages other than English and Spanish, which left millions of people in the dark. No one should be left in the dark.

That is why I am re-introducing the COVID-19 Language Access Act, which would require any federal agency that receives coronavirus-related funding to provide COVID-19 written resources to the public in 20 languages: Spanish, Arabic, Cambodian, Chinese, Haitian Creole, French, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese, Greek, Polish, Thai, Portuguese, Laotian, and Hmong. These selected languages are based on the languages required in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Language Access Plan for Disaster Assistance dated October 1, 2016. And Hmong has been added to reflect existing federal standards, including at Department of Homeland Security, for requiring Hmong translations in addition to Laotian.

I am proud that my bill has served as a basis for President Biden's presidential memorandum to address cultural and linguistic barriers to COVID-19 relief and recovery, especially for Asian Americans. President Biden's executive actions underscores the inequities of language access particularly in the midst of this COVID-19 outbreak.

Madam Speaker, fighting this pandemic requires everyone to have the right information and to be vaccinated. But to do so, we must eliminate any language barrier so that everyone is best prepared, informed, and ready to defeat this pandemic together. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SHERRY
McDAVID

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sherry McDavid,

a regional development champion in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, upon her retirement after 27 years of service as Executive Director of the FIVCO Area Development District in rural, northeastern Kentucky.

Sherry's love for northeastern Kentucky has been evident in her tireless dedication and adamant advocacy to strengthen communities in Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Greenup and Lawrence counties for nearly four decades through her leadership at the FIVCO ADD and the FIVCO Service Agency. In addition to being a staunch advocate for economic development and infrastructure enhancement in Kentucky's Appalachian region, Sherry has been an organizational powerhouse, cultivating unlikely partnerships and rallying volunteers from across county-lines to meet the needs of our people. Whether distributing food commodities, caring for our elderly residents, or extending water and sewer service in our communities, Sherry filled the gap on many occasions and was the glue that held multiple programs together across the local, state, and federal levels. Sherry is the type of leader that accepts every challenge and surpasses every expectation for the good of the people around her.

When we examine the growth and progress in the FIVCO region over the last 38 years, we can see the influence of Sherry's astute business sense and her unmatched work ethic. Although she is retiring, Sherry should be proud of the firm foundation that she has laid for the next generation to build upon. She has made a resounding difference in our part of Kentucky.

In closing, I want to express my deep appreciation for Sherry's service to the people of northeastern Kentucky, her leadership and her assistance for our local leaders in the FIVCO region. It has been an honor to work alongside such an inspiring advocate for our communities. I wish Sherry and her family tremendous joy and blessings in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THESPIAN
TROUPE 1555 AT RANCOCAS
VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thespian Troupe 1555 at Rancocas Valley Regional High School for their exceptional service to New Jersey and their community.

Amid a global crisis, the students of Thespian Troupe 1555 at Rancocas Valley Regional High School revitalized the discontinued Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat program and became true leaders. In response to the hunger they witnessed in their community, Thespian Troupe 1555 raised over 90 pounds of food for the RVRHS Food Pantry as part of the Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat program.

In this time, where a growing number of New Jersey residents are going to bed hungry, we should be doing all we can to ensure that we feed those in need. Thespian Troupe 1555's work exemplifies the best of New Jersey and New Jersey's compassion for all of its citizens.

I could not be prouder of the students in this troupe, and I thank them for their service.

IN MEMORY OF DR. ALAN GREEN

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Dr. Alan Green, the esteemed former Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Dartmouth College's Geisel School of Medicine. Dr. Green radiated resilience, energy, and a joy for life that carried him through both sickness and health until he passed away from cancer. Although he was diagnosed with a viral illness in 1974 that forced him to pause his psychiatry training for seven years, Dr. Green bounced back with a demonstrated passion for scientific research.

Dr. Green dedicated his life to researching schizophrenia, substance misuse disorders and establishing effective programs to treat those afflicted. As a beloved and respected professor and mentor, Dr. Green is often remembered by his students and colleagues for his curiosity, ambition, and drive. He was relentless in his aim to improve the lives of others and give back to those around him. His commitment to his work and his students will forever inspire the Hanover community.

I express my wholehearted appreciation for Dr. Green and his devotion to medicine and science. As an alumna of Dartmouth College, I am deeply grateful for Dr. Green's service to his students and the New Hampshire medical community. Although he will be profoundly missed, his memory will live on through the research he conducted, the treatments he developed, the students he taught, and the community he cared for. I offer my deepest condolences to his family. I wish them and the Dartmouth community comfort and warmth during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF FRED SPACE

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a fixture in our northern New Jersey community, Fred Space. Fred was born in Beemerville, a community where he lived in, raised his family, and dedicated himself to improving throughout his entire life.

As the second-generation owner and zookeeper of Space Farms Zoo & Museum, and a 77-year member of the Beemerville Fire Department, Fred's commitment to his community was legendary to those who knew him. As part of his more than seven-decade career with the Beemerville Fire Department, Fred served as Fire Chief from 1951 to 1953. He was also a founding member of the Kittatinny Recreation Association, which would go on to become the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce. An avid outdoorsman, Fred translated his love of hunting, fishing, and trapping into the Beemerville Hunting Club, as its founding member. He continued his passion for the outdoors by becoming a Lifetime Member of the Sussex County Board of Agriculture, serving as its President. He was Director of the NJ Farm Bureau and served on the New Jersey

Fish and Game Council from 1963 to 1971, including a three-year stint as Chairman from 1969 to 1971.

Fred's remarkable legacy will live on in the business he helped grow, and which bears his family name. For three generations now, Space Farms Zoo and Museum has been a wonderful attraction here in our community. Fred loved working with the animals at the zoo, from the famous Kodiak bear named Goliath, with whom he shared a particular bond; or the 16-foot-long, 250-pound python, with whom he had an infamous run-in. There was nothing that could dissuade Fred from his hands-on work at the zoo.

Fred was a loving husband to Mira for 46 years, and proud father of Parker, Eric, Lori, and Renee. Fred's devotion to community engagement and love for the outdoors will continue on through his beloved nine grandchildren and twenty-one grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Fred Space's extraordinary life, his service to our community, and the legacy he leaves behind.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, the Budget Resolution before the House is the first step toward providing urgently needed relief for the American people, as our Nation struggles to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our economy.

The need for Congress to act is both great and urgent. We're in a race against death, with over 450,000 fellow Americans lost to COVID-19. Our failure to defeat the virus has dragged our economy down, with more than 18 million Americans currently unemployed and scheduled to lose their unemployment insurance in six weeks if Congress does not act.

House Concurrent Resolution 11 allows Congress to quickly pass a bold \$1.9 trillion relief bill to defeat the virus, support workers and small businesses, and help families until the economy can reopen. President Biden's American Rescue Plan includes \$20 billion for a national vaccination strategy to increase supply and vaccination sites; \$50 billion to scale up testing through the purchasing of rapid tests and expanded lab capacity; and \$3 billion in innovative COVID-19 treatments. While we have effective vaccines to prevent people from getting COVID-19, we do not yet have accessible medicines to treat people who are sick with the disease. This plan funds research and large-scale clinical trials needed to develop therapeutics such as antivirals and antibodies to help people recover from COVID-19. The American Rescue Plan will also extend increased unemployment insurance for laid-off workers and provide resources for state and local governments to preserve the jobs of essential public workers fighting on the frontlines against this pandemic. These are the right policies at the right time.

House Concurrent Resolution 11, the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2021, allows

Congress to provide pandemic relief through reconciliation, a procedure that allows the Senate to bypass the filibuster and pass this legislation with a simple majority vote. The American people simply want Congress to help them survive this pandemic and defeat the virus. This resolution is a major step in making good on our promise to provide bold, urgent, and necessary support to those who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic and to address our cascading economy, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING MR. SAM SPRUELL OF MOUNT HOPE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Sam Spruell from Mount Hope, Alabama, who passed away on January 7, 2021 after a life of 63 years. He was an upstanding citizen of our State, a respected member of the Mount Hope community, and an outstanding businessman and farmer.

Sam Spruell was an Alabamian through and through, widely known for the kindness and friendship he displayed throughout his entire life. More importantly, Sam was a husband, father, and farmer who cared deeply about his work and the people around him. Never missing an opportunity to lend a helping hand, Sam was always available to those who needed him.

Sam was also a champion for Alabama cotton and the producers throughout the State. He served as President of the Southern Cotton Growers from 2004 to 2005, a testament to his dedication and passion to the industry. He was also a member of the Southeastern Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, the Alabama Cotton Commission, and the National Cotton Council. There is no doubt that Sam's countless hours of hard work in these arenas made an indelible impact for the State of Alabama and the nation—one that will continue for years to come.

Sam Spruell was a sincere and true man of God. As a leader of the Community Clothes Closet and Ministry of Hope, Sam played a key role in serving those around him. He went on to donate an entire building to The Caring Place, a charity near and dear to his heart.

Sam Spruell is now survived by his wife, Lynn Spruell; and two children, Jonathon Spruell and Liz Rhodes. In addition, he is survived by his five grandchildren, Shelby, Madi, Max, Mia, and Cam.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Sam's family and friends. The Fourth District, the State of Alabama, and the Nation have lost a friend and patriot. However, there is no question that his legacy and impact will live on well into the future.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING ELEANOR "SANDY" TORREY WEST

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember

and honor Mrs. Eleanor, or "Sandy," Torrey West, who passed away on January 17th at the age of one hundred and eight.

Mrs. West was known as a woman who embodied the spirit of Ossabaw Island, which is the third-largest of Georgia's barrier islands, just south of Savannah.

She established the Ossabaw Island Project in the 1960s and the Genesis Project in the 1970s as ways to allow students, artists, writers, scientists, ecologists, philosophers, and other intellectuals and creative thinkers to reconnect with the natural world, and with each other.

In the late 1970s, Mrs. West spearheaded her family's effort to assure that Ossabaw Island would remain preserved and protected.

She was the champion of Ossabaw, and her enthusiastic, joyful spirit shined in everything she did. Throughout Mrs. West's long, prosperous life, she inspired countless individuals. I am so thankful for her many contributions to Georgia's First District, and I know her legacy will continue for years to come.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and all who knew her during this most difficult time.

HONORING HANNAH YOTHERS

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Hannah Yothers on becoming one of the first young women in the Westmoreland-Fayette Council Boy Scouts of America to achieve the position of Eagle Scout.

Hannah joined the Boy Scouts in 2019, when girls were first able to join. She was one of the founding members of Troop 1372, which is partnered with the all-male Troop 372. Hannah first began her goal of becoming an Eagle Scout while in her senior year at Greater Latrobe High School and finished while attending Penn State Behrend in Erie.

In her journey to become an Eagle Scout, Hannah earned 31 merit badges, 10 more than the 21 required. For her Eagle Scout project, Hannah worked on landscaping, built two benches that can be converted into picnic tables, and other tasks at the Westmoreland Cleanways Recycling Center in Unity.

Hannah already is giving back to the Boy Scouts of America and her community by serving as an assistant Scoutmaster. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Hannah Yothers on her trailblazing achievement and wish her all the best in the chapters to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO FENCING AT THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL COMPLEX ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the No Fencing at the United States Capitol Complex Act, which would prohibit the